WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for printing a print job, the system comprising:

a plurality of printers; and

a print job distribution system which assesses characteristics of the print job and distributes the print job among a number of printers of the plurality of printers based on the characteristics of the print job such that the number of printers complete the print job at substantially one time.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the print job distribution system includes a print job assessment system which assesses the characteristics of the print job, a printer ability assessment system which assesses a printing ability of the plurality of printers to print the print job, and a print job allocation system which allocates the print job among the number of printers based on the characteristics of the print job and the printing ability of the plurality of printers.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the print job allocation system divides the print job into a number of print job portions each having a print job weight and allocates the number of print job portions among the number of printers such that all the print job portions are finished at substantially the same time.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the number of print job portions includes a number of sequential print job portions.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the print job weight of each of the number of print job portions is equal.

6. The system of claim 3, wherein the print job weight of each of the number of print job portions is not equal.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein the printing ability of each of the plurality of printers is equal.

8. The system of claim 2, wherein the printing ability of each of the plurality of printers is not equal.

9. The system of claim 2, wherein the print job allocation system minimizes a time required for printing the print job.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the characteristics of the print job include at least one of a file size of the print job, a format of the print job, a layout of the print job, and a content of the print job.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the characteristics of the print job include at least one of a paper size and margins for the print job, a number of lines of text in the print job, a number of words in the print job, a number of characters in the print job, a font size and type of the print job, and an image size in the print job.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the print job distribution system monitors a status of the print job and a performance of the plurality of printers.

13. A method of printing a print job, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of printers;

assessing characteristics of the print job; and

distributing the print job among a number of printers of the plurality of printers based on the characteristics of the print job such that the number of printers complete the print job at substantially one time.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of distributing the print job includes assessing a printing ability of the plurality of printers to print the print

job and allocating the print job among the number of printers based on the characteristics of the print job and the printing ability of the plurality of printers.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of distributing the print job includes dividing the print job into a number of print job portions each having a print job weight and allocating the number of print job portions among the number of printers such that all of the print job portions are finished at substantially the same time.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the number of print job portions includes a number of sequential print job portions.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the print job weight of each of the number of print job portions is equal.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the print job weight of each of the number of print job portions is not equal.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the printing ability of each of the plurality of printers is equal.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the printing ability of each of the plurality of printers is not equal.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of distributing the print job includes minimizing a time required for printing the print job.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of assessing the characteristics of the print job includes assessing at least one of a file size of the print job, a format of the print job, a layout of the print job, and a content of the print job.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of assessing the characteristics of the print job includes assessing at least one of a paper size and margins for the print job, a number of lines of text in the print job, a number of words in the print job, a number of characters in the print job, a font size and type of the print job, and an image size in the print job.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of distributing the print job includes monitoring a status of the print job and a performance of the plurality of printers.

25. A system for producing a book on-demand, the system comprising:

a processing system adapted to receive and process a book request for the book, the processing system adapted to retrieve a data file which includes contents of the book and produce a book body preparation command and a book cover preparation command from the data file;

a book block preparation system which prepares a book block of the book in response to the book body preparation command;

a book cover preparation system which prepares a book cover of the book in response to the book cover preparation command; and

a book finishing system which assembles the book block and the book cover to form the book,

wherein the book block preparation system prints the book block as a print job, and wherein the book block preparation system includes a plurality of printers and a print job distribution system which distributes the print job among a number of printers of the plurality of printers, wherein the number of printers complete the print job at substantially one time.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the print job distribution system includes a print job assessment system which assesses a weight of the print job, a printer ability assessment system which assesses a printing ability of the plurality of printers to print the print job, and a print job allocation system which

allocates the print job among the number of printers based on the weight of the print job and the printing ability of the plurality of printers.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the print job allocation system divides the print job into a number of print job portions each having a print job weight and allocates the number of print job portions among the number of printers, wherein all the print job portions are finished at substantially the same time.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the number of print job portions includes a number of sequential print job portions.

29. A method of producing a book on-demand, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving and processing a book request for the book including retrieving a data file which includes contents of the book and producing a book body preparation command and a book cover preparation command from the data file;

preparing a book block of the book in response to the book body preparation command;

preparing a book cover of the book in response to the book cover preparation command; and

assembling the book block and the book cover to form the book,

wherein the step of preparing the book block includes printing the book block as a print job, and wherein the step of preparing the book block includes providing a plurality of printers and distributing the print job among a number of printers of the plurality of printers, wherein the number of printers complete the print job at substantially one time.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the step of distributing the print job includes assessing a weight of the print job, assessing a printing ability of the plurality of printers to print the print job, and allocating the print job among the

number of printers based on the weight of the print job and the printing ability of the plurality of printers.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the step of distributing the print job includes dividing the print job into a number of print job portions each having a print job weight and allocating the number of print job portions among the number of printers, wherein all of the print job portions are finished at substantially the same time.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the number of print job portions includes a number of sequential print job portions.